

Message Text

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FM USDEL SECRETARY IN ALEXANDRIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTO 10126

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, IR

SUBJECT: US-IRAN BILATERAL AGREEMENT

FOR ROBINSON FROM THE SECRETARY

REF: (A) TOSEC 100088

1. I HAVE READ YOUR MESSAGE AND WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT I AM STILL NOT TOTALLY CONVINCED THAT WE SHOULD NOW PROCEED ON THE COURSE YOU PROPOSE.

2. MY MAJOR WORRY IS HOW A 120-DAY DEAL WILL LOOK TO THE EUROPEANS AND TO OUR IEA PARTNERS. UNLESS A 5-YEAR ARRANGEMENT IS ASSURED TO FOLLOW, I AM CONCERNED THAT SUCH A DEAL WILL IRRITATE THE EUROPEANS AND SET OFF A DOMESTIC DEBATE AT HOME.

3. IF THIS BE THE CASE, THEN I AM NOT SURE A 4-MONTH DEAL IS WORTH THE RISKS WE MAY RUN. CONVERSELY, I LEAN TOWARDS THE 120-DAY DEAL IF WE CAN BE CERTAIN THAT A 5-YEAR AGREEMENT WILL FOLLOW.

4. I NEED YOUR BEST ASSESSMENT OF THE CERTAINTY OF EVENTUALLY COMPLETING THE 5-YEAR DEAL. ALSO, PLEASE CHECK QUICKLY WITH THE KEY PEOPLE IN WASHINGTON AND GIVE ME THEIR VIEWS, ON THE WISDOM OF GOING AHEAD WITH THE 4-MONTH DEAL AND THE RISKS

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